

23. (Twice Amended) A composition of modified release comprising a mixture of the pellets of claim 25 which have (i) a quick release profile and (ii) a slow release profile in a ratio between 10:90 and 90:10 by weight.

25. (Amended) A pellet comprising an acid labile benzimidazole compound, wherein the pellet comprises:

- (a) an inert nucleus;
- (b) a layer disposed over said inert nucleus (a), consisting of an acid labile benzimidazole compound, an inert, non-alkaline polymer soluble in water and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable inert excipients;
- (c) one or more intermediate layers that comprise:
 - (i) an inert, non-alkaline coating, formed of an inert, non-alkaline polymer soluble in water and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable inert excipients; and
 - (ii) a system of modified release that comprises an inert, non-alkaline polymer soluble in water and an inert polymer insoluble in water;
 said intermediate layer(s) (c) disposed over said layer (b) that covers the inert nucleus; and
- (d) an external layer comprising an enteric coating disposed over said intermediate layer(s) (c).

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Ware for allowing Applicants' representatives to conduct a telephone interview on January 22, 2003.

Claims 2-25 pending in the application. Claims 21-23 and 25 have been amended. The amendments to claims 21-23 were filed with the response to the Final Office Action of April 23, 2002.